

ments, the insufficiency of the drainage in certain Districts, the complete destruction of our forests, part of which should be preserved for shelter and part for sugaries. The want of attention shewn by the Legislature on this subject; the want of agricultural education, and the absence of a sufficient market, are also pointed out.

Your Committee cannot consider the want of a market as one of the causes which can have retarded the progress of Agriculture, for if we compare the prices obtained by our agriculturists with those obtained by the farmers on the borders of Lakes Erie, Huron, and Michigan, and in all that territory which is commonly called the West, it will be seen that their distant position and the expenses resulting therefrom, have this effect, that the producer, in those sections, has never been able, nor ever will be able at any time, or in any market in the world, really to obtain for his produce the same price which our agriculturists obtain for theirs. Your Committee are nevertheless of opinion, that the improvement of the navigation of the St. Lawrence and of the inland communications, will have the effect of greatly increasing the price obtained for the produce of our agricultural industry, by diminishing the cost of transport, which is comparatively enormous for the whole of the population inhabiting the lower part of the river, in consequence of the almost utter impossibility, from the want of wharves, of their deriving any advantage from steam navigation.

Your Committee will now enter upon the most difficult part of their task, that of suggesting the means which the Government has within its reach for the improvement of Agriculture. It is at this moment, especially, when good harvests seems to be returning to us, that we should profit by the recent experience which we have obtained from adversity, and induce the population of the country parts to